

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) Abrasive particles of composition selected from the group consisting consisting of fused or sintered corundums, zirconium corundums, silicon carbides and boron carbide, other abrasives ~~and mixtures thereof, and mixtures thereof~~; the abrasive particles having a sheathing comprising an aqueous binding agent and a fine grained complex oxide, wherein the complex oxide comprises  $A_xB_yO_z$  where A and B are different elements and x and y are greater than zero, and z corresponding to a product of the sum of (x+y) multiplied by a factor between 1.5 ~~and 2.5~~ and 2.5;  
  
the sheath coatings of the particles affording enhanced surface area to the underlying substrate particles and being thermodynamically stable and highly adherent, thus effecting enhanced abrasion performance of the ~~particles~~ particles;  
  
wherein said aqueous binding agent comprises a silicate.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with claim 2, wherein the silicate binder~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1, wherein said silicate comprises colloidal silicic acid.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein,~~ wherein element A is a metal as characterized in the periodic system of elements.
5. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 4, wherein the complex oxide contains at least one element from the group of metals in the periodic system of elements.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 5, wherein the elements from the group of metals are selected from the group

consisting of titanium, zirconium, iron, cobalt-nickel and combinations, nickel, and combinations thereof.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein, wherein~~ element B is selected from the group consisting of amphoteric elements in the periodic system of elements.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein, wherein~~ the complex oxide contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of amphoteric elements in the periodic system of elements.
9. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 8, wherein the amphoteric elements are selected from the group consisting of vanadium, chromium, manganese, zinc, tin-antimony and combinations, antimony, and combinations thereof.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 1 ~~wherein, wherein~~ the sheathing contains 0.05 – 5.0 weight % of the complex oxide relative to the mass of the untreated particles.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 10, wherein the sheathing contains 0.1 – 2.0 weight % of the complex oxide compound relative to the mass of the untreated particles.
12. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 10 ~~wherein, wherein~~ the sheathing contains a binding agent portion of 0.05 – 2.0 weight % relative to the mass of the untreated particles.
13. (Currently amended) ~~Abrasive particles in accordance with~~ The abrasive particles of claim 12, wherein the binding agent amounts to 0.1 – 1.0 weight % relative to the mass of the untreated particles.

14. (Currently amended) ~~Method A~~ method for the treatment of abrasive particles comprising the steps of
- i. wetting the abrasive particles in a mixer with a liquid silicate binding agent, ~~agent~~;
  - ii. admixing the wetted abrasive particles with a fine grained complex oxide comprising  $A_xB_yO_z$ [[,]] until the complex oxide is substantially evenly distributed over the surface of the abrasive particles to form sheaths thereon, ~~where~~ wherein A and B are different elements and elements, x and y are greater than zero, and z ~~corresponding~~ corresponds to a product of the sum of (x+y) multiplied by a factor between 1.5 and 2.5, and 2.5; and
  - iii. heating the sheated abrasive particles to enhance adhesion of the sheathing.
15. (Currently amended) ~~Method in accordance with~~ The method of claim 14, wherein the mixing periods ~~in Steps~~ in steps i) and ii) each amount to 0.5 and 5 minutes.
16. (Currently amended) ~~Method in accordance with~~ The method of claim 14 ~~wherein,~~ wherein the heating is carried out at temperatures between 100 and 900°C.
17. (Currently amended) ~~Synthetic resin-bound abrasive, products made with abrasive particles in accordance with~~ resin-bound, abrasive products comprising the abrasive particles of claim 1.